

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A small arms projectile for a small arms weapon, which projectile comprises a warhead having an explosive charge, an initiator, and a firing pin, the initiator having safe and armed conditions and capable of detonating the explosive charge of the warhead when the initiator is in the armed condition and impacted with sufficient force by the firing pin, wherein the projectile further comprises shielding means positioned between the initiator and the explosive charge of the warhead, which shielding means is slidable from a safety position in which the shielding means shields the explosive charge of the warhead from the initiator, to an armed position in which the initiator is capable of detonating the explosive charge of the warhead, the shielding means being slidable, separately from the initiator, from the safe to the armed position in response to the initiator moving from the safe to the armed condition, wherein rotation of the initiator from the safety to the armed condition causes the shielding means to slide from the safety to the armed position.

2. (Original) A projectile according to claim 1 wherein the initiator communicates with the explosive charge of the warhead via a fire channel, the shielding means forming a barrier which closes the fire channel when in the safe position, and which barrier is removed from the fire channel when the shielding means is in the armed position.

3. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 1 wherein the shielding means comprises a shutter.

4. (Original) A projectile according to claim 3 wherein the shutter is slidably constrained within guide means.

5. (Original) A projectile according to claim 4 wherein the guide means comprises a slot.

6. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 4 wherein said casing contains a bore adjacent the warhead, said initiator being arranged within the bore, and the guide means is formed in the casing between the bore and the warhead.

7. (Original) A projectile according to claim 6 wherein the casing comprises an opening formed within the guide means which opens on to the initiator housed within the bore thereof.

8. (Original) A projectile according to claim 7 wherein the shutter has an opening therein corresponding to the casing opening, which shutter opening is at least partially coincident with the casing opening when the shutter is in the armed position, and which is not coincident with the casing opening when the shutter is in the safety position.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 1 wherein the shielding means also comprises initiator engaging means, which are engaged by the initiator when the initiator moves from the safety to the armed condition to thereby slide the shielding means from the safety to the armed position, and the initiator comprises shielding means engaging means for engaging the initiator engaging means.

11. (Original) A projectile according to claim 10 wherein the initiator engaging means comprising a projection on the shielding means.

12. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 10 wherein the shielding means engaging means comprises a cam surface.

13. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 10 wherein the shielding means engaging means is rotationally symmetric around the entire periphery of the initiator.

14. (Original) A projectile according to claim 13 wherein the shielding means engaging means is provided by a circumferential channel formed in the periphery of the initiator.

15. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 1 wherein the shielding means has a fracture point, at which point the shielding means will break if the initiator prematurely detonates when in the safety position.

16. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 15 wherein the shielding means comprises a projection for engaging the initiator, and the fracture point is formed at the point at which the projection projects from the shielding means.

17. (Previously presented) A projectile according to claim 1 wherein the shielding means is formed from titanium.

18. Cancelled.